

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are pending. Claims 1-30 are allowed. By this Response, claim 31 is amended and claims 34-37 canceled. Reconsideration and allowance based on the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

§112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 31-37 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The Office Action specifically refers to claims 31 and 34 where specific claim language is unclear.

Regarding claim 31, the Office Action alleges that the recitation of “where the grouped output signals each include at least one or more output signal than splitted input signal” is confusing in view of the specification and its teachings. In response, applicants have amended claim 31 specifying that the output signals include at least one or more “output signal” than the splitted input signal, instead of “grouped output signal.” In embodiments of the present invention, the output signals include a control channel which creates an additional output signal prior to being grouped by the combining circuitry. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the claim clarify the language with respect to the embodiments of the present invention.

Regarding claim 34, the Office Action alleges that the recitation of the “the broadcast communication services are switched at a predetermined time from use by the broadcast communication services users to said predetermined group of users” is not clear. Claim 34 has been canceled. Accordingly, the rejection with respect to claim 34 is moot.

In view of the above, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Prior Art Rejections

The Office Action rejects claim 34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chung, et al. (US 6,895,185) and claims 34-37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Imoto (US 4,801,190). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 34-37 have been canceled. The rejections of claims 34-37 are now moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Application in Condition for Allowance

With the allowance of claims 1-30, amendment to claim 31 addressing the 35 U.S.C. §112 issue, and the cancellation of claims 34-37, applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Prompt consideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

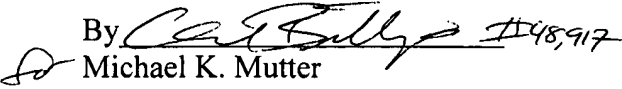
Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings (Reg. No. 48,917) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By  #48,917
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